

Shepherd of the Desert
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Shepherds Staff Newsletter
October 2020



Peace be with you! In these days after Pentecost... Sisters and Brothers may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts, minds and very beings in these days of unprecedented change may the Word of Hope resound for you and for all...

A Question- How far can you see? I spoke recently about a visual impairment called in myopia (being near sighted) where without corrective lenses one can see close up but, as one looks into the distance it becomes hazy, foggy, and unfocused. A second question, can you see beyond the horizon? A third question, can you envision the invisible? Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church has developed a mission statement. A mission statement is defined as "A written declaration of an organizations (congregation) core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time. The statement is to filter:

1. What is important from what is not. 2. To clearly state who will be served and how. 3. Communicate a sense of intended direction to the organization (congregation).

Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church has the following

Mission Statement: "Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all, by sharing our gifts and the unconditional love of Jesus."

From this mission statement our congregation has a vision statement. A vision statement is like a lifetime goal defined as an "aspirational" description of what an organization (congregation) would like to accomplish in the middle or long term future. Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church has the following

Vision Statement: "To be an intergenerational congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

These (mission and vision) statements are intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future actions. They are meant to help guide, direct, stay on task and keep the focus clear. When conditions on the road are clear you can see in front of you as you drive. When we have clarity of what we are called to do, we can see into the future of our mission and ministry in Christ. We can see the invisible, we can see beyond the now with clarity into the "next" and from these ideas, tasks, goals and other decisions will have a clarity that allows us and aids us to see with faith. After all faith is the assurance of things hoped for the reality and conviction of things not yet seen. Hebrews 11:1. Hope springs eternal and may we grow in faith toward God and in fervent love of others during these challenging and changing times. Keeping our hearts and minds and very beings created in Christ our Lord caring for others with love.

See you in church for practice of this way of life in these changing times. Blessings, Pastor

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Our Worship service is now on Facebook and YouTube if you would like to watch Worship just search Shepherd of the desert Sun City or check out our website @ shepherdofthedesertelca.org

Mission: "Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all, by sharing our gifts and the unconditional love of Jesus."

Vision: "To be an intergenerational congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

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Hello Church!

As I write this, I think about how the year has flown by! It is the first day of autumn already! It's a bit toasty for autumn for my taste but at least we had a good dose of rain on my end of town this morning.

Attendance at our services has been climbing; we have other churches asking us what the heck we did to stay open! I can tell you in one sentence – we refused to allow people to go through this troubled time ALONE! We refused to give in to fear and stood our ground to do what we thought was right. We went to great lengths to make Shepherd of the Desert as safe as we possibly could to worship. We opened the doors to anyone who wished to attend after we took their temperature and we WELCOMED them to worship! Not exactly something new or different from what is expected of a Christian people, but definitely a different mindset of our society in these times!

So, we anxiously await *YOUR* return to church! With open arms and hearts we will welcome all who attend and hope their worship lifts their hearts and minds! Perhaps so much so that they wish to attend our newly resurrected Bible studies on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's! Hope springs eternal!

Your brother in Christ,

Dave Christensen Council President

Ministry October 2020

We have received the first full monthly asp bill since solar panels were installed. All 65 panels are properly functioning. The Walton Hall bill is greatly reduced but not to the extent we were hoping for. Currently we are investigating ways to save even more, including the need for new programmable thermostats and procedures.

In this time of extreme heat everyone is doing their part to conserve energy and we do know it does pay off.

With 'cooler' weather just around the corner we are anticipating the return of our foods trucks. We don't have firm dates yet but look for them soon.

East Coast Cheese Steaks Wednesdays

Harris Smokehouse BBS Thursdays

Truck or Treat will happen this year but in a modified form. Candy is being donated but we are still in need for more. Please donate, candy or cash, if possible and you haven't already. We will be needing volunteers to help 'bag' all the candy for the 8 stations planned.

We don't have firm 'bagging' dates yet but please help if you can, it will be greatly appreciated. You can sign up now and hopefully our needs and your available times will line up. Thanks in advance.

Judy Yates

Assistant for Ministry





Mission October 2020

Welcome to the Fall and much cooler temperatures. The summer doldrums are fading in the rearview mirror and we eagerly await the fast approaching holidays, anticipating satisfying our sweet tooth with gobs of candy on Halloween, or reflecting on family or friends who may have joined the Church triumphant on All Saints Day and Reformation Sunday. What about Reformation Sunday?

The Reformation and all the teachings of Martin Luther and other “reformers” seem so far away. I mean the 1500’s isn’t that ancient history, like almost BC. I would counter that the “reformation” should be very much a part of our lives today and everyday not just on Reformation Sunday. As Christian author and Pastor Max Lucado put it, “God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way.” Our Heavenly Father wants us to be reformed, to be totally transformed, to become like Jesus Christ.

WOW! Now that is certainly a tall order. Yet in Philippians 2:5 Paul exhorts us, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (KJV) We can do it, on Reformation Sunday and throughout the coming year, with God’s help and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:7, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (KJV) Thank you Lord for having begun your reforming work in me that will continue until the day of salvation. Amen!

David Hargreaves

Assistant for Mission



Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Rock Point AZ exists to connect diverse communities to the needs of the Navajo People by creating a safe environment where the values of education, culture and spiritual formation are accessible to all people.

Worship October 2020

It has been wonderful to see so many of you at the services! We are all striving to maintain the requirements of the medical people and we can say that for us it has been working. You all who have been coming need to be applauded for your consistent application of the rules.

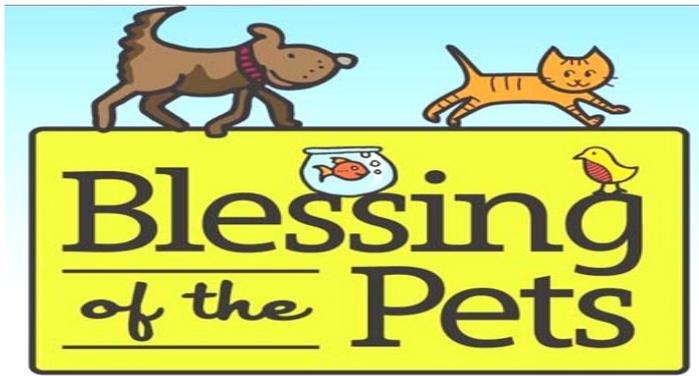
We have started holding Bible studies and they have been nicely attended and the subject matter has been quite interesting. There is always room for more people to join us as we get an “Understanding of the New Testament”. These classes are being held on Tuesdays at 2:00 in the afternoon and at 6:00 in the evening on Wednesdays. As Martin Luther has told us in our Catechetical classes, “.....the study of scripture should be an everyday affair”, so come and join us.

Yours in Christ

Chuck Hyland

Assistant for Worship





October 3rd at 10:00 am

*We will meet in courtyard between Walton Hall
and the Sanctuary*



October 31st 6:00 PM-7:00PM

As you know we do our annual Trunk or Treat every year and the children in the community really enjoy it! This year due to COVID-19 this will be a drive through event! But we still need candy to make this happen for the kiddo's if you would be able to donate individually wrapped candy you can drop it off in the church office or if you would like to donate funds for the purchase candy please note that on your offering envelope. Lets make this year another successful event for the kids!

We will be taking donations until October 15th

Best Pancakes in Sun City

8:00am-10:00am in Walton Hall Saturday October 31st As always this is a free breakfast for the community. This will be a drive up / take out due to COVID-19 precautions.

Understanding the New Testament

Tuesday's at 2:00 pm and Wednesday's at 6:00pm

Discover the history behind the 27 books of the New testament and gain insight into the word at the time and the people who produced the text. This is a 30 minute video course with discussion following make plans to come!